

Unparalleled 241

Chapter 241: The Tathagata Rebirth Mantra

One sword strike killed tens of thousands of tormented souls!

The combat strength that Chu Kuangren displayed shocked everyone at the scene.

Meanwhile, the tormented souls had also sensed that Chu Kuangren was not a person to mess with as they stopped targeting him and went for the others instead.

The battle waged on.

However, Chu Kuangren frowned slightly. Although he was not afraid of the one million tormented souls, it was still quite challenging for him to wipe them all out.

Even if his one sword strike had killed tens of thousands of them, he still had to repeat that dozens of times.

Besides, these tormented souls would not gather together for him to kill them as well.

By the time he was done wiping out all of the tormented souls, most of the people from the Horizon Wing Sect would be dead, and that was something he did not want to witness.

“Since I’m here, there shall be no further casualties. As for the one million tormented souls, I wonder if you guys can fend off my Buddhist Light!”

A bright golden light lit up in Chu Kuangren's eyes.

He sheathed the Descendant Self Sword and sat with his legs crossed in the air.

An extremely mysterious surge of Daoist Rhyme suddenly spread. Upon sensing it, a look of uncertainty flashed across the nearby Wu Ye's face.

"This is..."

Surges of Daoist Rhyme emanated from Chu Kuangren's body.

The brilliant golden light that radiated from his body carried a vast, bright and compassionate Buddhist intent.

"Tathagata Rebirth Mantra!"

A look of compassion appeared on Chu Kuangren's face as the brilliant Buddhist Light on his body was at its most intense and it spread outwards like a raging tide.

When the tormented souls were enveloped by the Buddhist Light, they screamed one after another, during which the ferocious qi on their bodies dispelled like snow melting under the sun.

That was the Legendary Technique that was obtained from the Fantasy Roulette — the Tathagata Rebirth Mantra!

That scene before him shocked him so much that his eyes were wide and his mouth agape.

“Buddhist Light?”

“Why is there Buddhist Light on his body?”

The Buddhist Light was a trait unique only to Buddhist cultivators and could never be found in ordinary cultivators.

‘Isn’t Chu Kuangren a sword cultivator?’

‘Why does he have the Buddhist Light?’

“And of this scale as well... By the heavens... Even the Abbot can’t hope to compare with that I’m afraid,” Wu Ye exclaimed with shock.

If his Buddhist Light was a small stream, then the amount that Chu Kuangren was releasing would be akin to a vast ocean!

Both of them could not be compared.

However, something that turned Wu Ye's world view upside down happened next.

The endless Buddhist Light that Chu Kuangren manifested was gradually forming an ancient golden Buddha statue on his head!

The golden Buddha was thousands of feet high and had his palms together as a thousand-feet high Buddhist Light erupted from his body, tearing through the ferocious-qi-formed clouds.

"This... How's this possible!"

Wu Ye was so dazed, he did not dare believe what he was witnessing.

By the heavens, did he just meet the Buddha in real life?

The golden Buddha had manifested in the heavens and earth by spreading its golden Buddhist Light everywhere like a surging sea. The Buddha's lips were also opened like it was chanting.

In an instant, golden lotuses surged from the ground while mysterious Brahmic chimes echoed through the sky, filling everyone's inner selves with peace as if it had purified their hearts.

Meanwhile, the one million tormented souls shrieked non-stop.

The combination of Brahmic chimes and Buddhist Light was breaking down their rage and ferocious qi to erase the roots of their existence.

“Could he be a living Buddha?” Wu Ye uttered as he looked at the compassionate Chu Kuangren, who was sitting above in the void, in a daze.

He was not the only one.

That gigantic Buddha could be seen from thousands of miles away.

Numerous people knelt on the ground and prayed when they saw it.

A surge of Buddhist Daoist Rhyme spread to all directions, which made all the strong cultivators on Firmament Star sense it.

“This surge of Daoist Rhyme feels pure and peaceful. It’s... the Buddha? And it contains an Emperor’s Aura as well. Has an Emperor appeared among the Buddhists?”

“Did someone among the Buddhists become a Buddhist Emperor?”

“That’s impossible. The Emperors have disappeared for such a long time, and since the Era of Great Battles has just started, how can something like that happen so soon?”

“This direction... It’s coming from the Ancient Battlefield.”

The Sages were startled.

One by one, they immediately activated spiritual thoughts towards the Ancient Battlefield's direction.

When they saw the giant Buddha that was emanating a sense of tranquil antiquity lying in the void, they were all shocked.

If that giant Buddha was not a statue, they would have suspected that they were seeing the real Buddha instead.

That was too shocking for them.

However, they were even more dumbfounded when they looked below the giant Buddha statue and saw the same Buddhist Light radiating from a cross-legged Chu Kuangren.

"What's going on? Isn't that Chu Kuangren?"

"This giant Buddha statue was formed by the Buddhist Light from his body. My god, he was the one who made this giant statue."

"Wait, isn't Chu Kuangren a sword cultivator from Black Heaven Sect? When did he get involved with the Buddhists instead?"

"I doubt even the virtuous eminent monks from Thunder Temple would have Buddhist Light as dense as the one from his body. How the hell does he do it?"

Buddhist cultivator?

The Sages were starting to think that this joke was going too far.

Chu Kuangren had killed Sages and Young Emperors, turning everywhere he went upside down. How could he have the slightest hint of Buddha's compassion?

However, the facts were right before them.

The Buddhist Light from Chu Kuangren's body was not fake.

"Sigh, I knew it. Whenever this Chu Kuangren descends into the world, trouble will always follow wherever he goes. And as expected, something happened in just a few days." One of the Sage could not help but lament.

The other Sages agreed as well.

"So what, do you have any objections? Do take a closer look. This young lad is purifying the tormented souls and saving the lives of innocents. This is such a merit-accumulating thing to do. But why do you guys have to twist the narrative like he's causing trouble instead?"

At that moment, the Black Heaven Sect's Sage spoke through his spiritual thoughts.

Only then did the other Sages notice the million tormented souls.

“Geez, the Buddhist Light is so bright that I didn’t even notice these tormented souls. Where did all of them come from?”

“Judging by the looks of it, Chu Kuangren is almost done settling that.”

The crowd of Sages continued to observe.

The vast Buddhist Light purified the one million tormented souls and dissipated the rage and ferocious qi on their bodies. With that, their terrifying appearance gradually turned into a peaceful one.

All of them bowed to Chu Kuangren as if they were thanking him for releasing them from their endless suffering.

“Everything eventually returns to where it came from.”

“Rest in peace, everyone.”

With a compassionate look on his handsome face, Chu Kuangren put his palms together and said to the numerous tormented souls.

Then, the one million souls from the Tormented Army turned into spots of light and disappeared.

Everyone was shocked by the scene before them.

They looked towards Chu Kuangren with respect in their eyes.

At that moment, everyone would no doubt believe Chu Kuangren if he told them that he was a living Buddha.

After purifying the tormented souls, Chu Kuangren lowered his hands and retracted the endless Buddhist Light back into his body. His expression eventually returned to normal.

However, once the tormented souls had dissipated, a strange black qi suddenly appeared in the void.

The aura of the black qi was incredibly similar to the ferocious qi, but it was much purer by comparison and it had not disappeared despite the Buddhist Light's purification.

"This thing seems a bit strange."

Chu Kuangren then reached his hand outward to form a larger hand with his spiritual energy and grabbed it. He thoroughly studied it for a while.

Suddenly, he recalled what the Lou Kingdom's Ruler told him. This Tormented Army was formed because the Tranquil Kingdom's Ruler stole a source of ferocious qi from the Forbidden Area.

Could this be the source of the ferocious qi?

Chu Kuangren pondered for a while before he placed it into a box and kept it inside his Yin and Yang ring.

He then looked at the cultivators around him, and a mysterious surge of Daoist Rhyme emanated from his body as if a spring breeze was brushing past everyone.

Everyone instantly felt that their exhaustion was swept away and their injuries had rapidly recovered as well.

They were so amazed, and once again, they could not help but be impressed by Chu Kuangren's tactics.

Chapter 242: Provide Guidance, Six Words, He's Undoubtedly Our Sect Leader

Everyone healed quickly under the effects of the Spring Breeze Healing Technique.

Chu Kuangren was about to come down to the ground after he cast that technique in mid-air. However, he had a sudden hunch that made him look towards the Ancient Battlefield.

His gaze crossed the sea of clouds and fell onto a white-robed figure that was standing on the Ancient Battlefield's sand dune.

The white-robed figure was holding a spear. His face was covered with a hideous-looking mask while his deep dark eyes looked at Chu Kuangren.

"The White-Robed General?"

Chu Kuangren frowned slightly as he wondered why he was seeing that person again.

Following that, he saw the White-Robed General struck his spear on the ground and bowed towards him. It seemed like he was either thanking Chu Kuangren or paying his respects to the million now-departed tormented souls.

Chu Kuangren was stunned. 'What is he doing now?'

Just when Chu Kuangren wanted to ask him some questions, the White-Robed General lifted the spear before his figure disappeared in the sandstorm.

"Is he related to the million-unit Tormented Army? Wait, could he be a citizen of the Tranquil Kingdom?" Chu Kuangren thought.

Since the million-unit Tormented Army was transformed from the Tranquil Kingdom's troops, could it be that the White-Robed General was a general from the Tranquil Kingdom?

Otherwise, why would he express his gratitude to Chu Kuangren for purifying these one million tormented souls?

The more Chu Kuangren thought about it, the more he felt that it might be possible.

However, there might be some other hidden reasons that he did not know of too. Hence, without thinking any further, he retracted his spiritual power and returned to the ground.

The Horizon Wing Sect Master, Wu Ye, Leng Changkong, and others went up to him.

“Greetings, Sect Leader. I’m the Horizon Wing Sect Master!”

“Greetings, Brother Chu. My name is Wu Ye.”

One by one, the few of them greeted and bowed to him.

Chu Kuangren chuckled. “It’s alright, there’s no need for pleasantries.”

After that, he looked at Leng Changkong who then looked back at him with a bitter smile and said,
“Brother Chu, you’ve taken great lengths to hide your identity from me.”

“Changkong, don’t be rude.”

The Horizon Wing Sect Master scolded from the side.

Leng Changkong had come back to his senses too by then. Since his own Sect Master had addressed Chu Kuangren as Sect Leader, it would be impolite for him to address the other party as a fellow Daoist.

His expression turned serious. “Greetings, Sect Leader. I’m Changkong.”

"It's alright, Brother Leng. You can drop the formalities," Chu Kuangren replied.

The few of them then went to clean up the battlefield.

The Horizon Wing Sect Master could not hide the sadness in his eyes when he saw the Horizon Wing Sect's cultivators who had died in battle. "They were all my Horizon Wing Sect's remarkable children!"

"Please allow me to send them off with a prayer."

Wu Ye sighed and sat on the ground. A faint Buddhist Light emanated from his body as he started to recite the Buddhist scriptures.

A wave of sanctity and harmonious qi emanated everywhere.

Once the battlefield was cleaned up, Wu Ye went to seek out Chu Kuangren. His eyes were bursting with great interest.

"Brother Chu, are you a Buddhist cultivator?"

"Venerable monk, you must be joking. I'm the Black Heaven Sect Leader, so how can I possibly be a Buddhist cultivator?" Chu Kuangren shook his head and laughed.

“That’s impossible.” Wu Ye shook his head firmly. “If you’re not a Buddhist cultivator, then how do you have that kind of Buddhist Light? I believe that even myself and the Thunder Temple’s Abbott pale in comparison to that Buddhist Light.”

“That’s just a type of technique, so it can’t really prove or explain anything.”

“No Buddhist technique will be able to exert much or even its full power without the support of Buddhism. Since Brother Chu was bathed in Buddhist Light just now, it means that you possess a deep understanding of that Buddhist Technique. For this very reason, I believe Brother Chu’s attainments in Buddhism should be at the top,” Wu Ye said confidently.

Based on that argument, Chu Kuangren was no doubt a Buddhist cultivator!

He was a little speechless.

He had obtained the Tathagata Rebirth Scripture through the Fantasy Roulette, so he never had to learn about Buddhism. After all, the knowledge and insights were directly imprinted into his mind upon retrieving that technique.

However, he did not bother to explain that in detail.

Meanwhile, seeing how silent Chu Kuangren was made Wu Ye more certain that he was a Buddhist cultivator who possessed a vast amount of Buddhist knowledge.

A hint of respect flashed across his eyes as he said, “Brother Chu, I’ve traveled to the Ancient Battlefield because the concentration of rage qi is the densest here. I wanted to release these tormented souls

while taking the opportunity to gain a deeper insight into Buddhism by doing so. I've been stuck in a bottleneck for many years now, I hope Brother Chu can provide me with some guidance."

Chu Kuangren was dumbfounded.

Provide guidance?

What kind of guidance could he possibly provide? His only understanding of Buddhism was limited to some famous proverbs, novels, and plays from his past lives.

"You're too polite, venerable monk. My understanding of Buddhism is very shallow, so I'm not worthy to even speak of it at all. I'm afraid you've found the wrong person."

"There's no need to be humble, Brother Chu. Please do provide me with your guidance."

Wu Ye looked at Chu Kuangren excitedly.

He was too eager to break through his current state.

As a dignified monk disciple and also the leader of the younger generation of Buddhist practitioners, Wu Ye had been known as the most intelligent figure in the Thunder Temple for thousands of years.

However, no one knew that his Buddhist attainments had reached a bottleneck and the fact that he could not make any progress troubled him a lot.

He had been trying to find a way to break through his bottleneck in Buddhism for all these years. He had gone through all of Thunder Temple's Buddhist scriptures so many times that he could almost recite all of them by heart. Despite that, it only had a little effect on him, and he still could not break through his bottleneck.

It was only when he saw Chu Kuangren's Buddhist Light and the towering golden ancient Buddha statue just now did a flicker of hope ignite within his heart.

He figured that person could perhaps solve his dilemma.

Chu Kuangren had a slight headache when he saw how persistent Wu Ye was.

'Fine.'

'I guess I'll try to make something up.'

He casually replied, "See through, let go, be free."

Those mere six words immediately unleashed the depths of Wu Ye's mind.

"See through..."

"Let go..."

“Be free...”

It may only be six words, but it contained most of Buddhism’s essence.

The mystery and wonders in those words were hard to comprehend even for a monk disciple like Wu Ye. However, he seemed to have grasped something amid that process.

“See through... Let go... Be free!”

Wu Ye’s expression kept changing as he mumbled on.

‘What should I see through? What should I let go of? How do I be free?’

The more Wu Ye tried to gain insight into those words, the crazier he gradually looked. Even the spiritual energy on his body was fluctuating subconsciously.

“That’s not good, he’s going to go mad.”

Next to him, the Horizon Wing Sect Master suddenly exclaimed.

He could feel his head numbing.

Those six words alone managed to make a monk disciple rack his brains and even show signs of going mad. It was extremely terrifying indeed.

“Why can’t I feel anything at all then?”

A puzzled Leng Changkong asked. Although he heard the six words that Chu Kuangren uttered as well, nothing happened to him.

“You’re different from the monk disciple. Those six words contain countless essences of Buddhism. Since you’re not well-versed in Buddhism, it’s natural for you not to understand the mystery within it. But the monk disciple has been reading Buddhist scriptures since young and has a very high cultivation level in Buddhism. That’s why he ended up like this when he grasped the profound meaning within those six words.”

The Horizon Wing Sect Master explained in a serious tone.

Leng Changkong was confused instead.

To put it in another way, nothing happened to him because he understood too little.

The Horizon Wing Sect Master looked at Chu Kuangren sternly and said to him with his voice trembling, “I can’t believe the Sect Leader’s attainments in Buddhism are so profound. Just the essences of Buddhism in those six words alone were enough to make even a monk disciple struggle.”

“Is it that overwhelming?”

“Your level of understanding is still insufficient, so, naturally, you can’t comprehend anything.”

Leng Changkong’s mouth twitched slightly.

‘That’s great. This is my first time being called stupid and I can’t even refute it.’

“Sect Leader, I’m afraid that the monk disciple will go mad if this goes on. What should we do now?” The Horizon Wing Sect Master asked anxiously.

When he looked to the calmed-faced Chu Kuangren beside him as if nothing had happened, an immense admiration towards him suddenly filled his heart.

‘The Sect Leader is no doubt worthy of his role. He’s so calm even in a situation like this.’

“It appears that I still have much to learn.” The Horizon Wing Sect Master secretly sighed and lamented.

Chapter 243: Continue Making Things Up, The Monk Disciple Formally Takes A Teacher, Entering The Ancient Battlefield Once More

F*ck me!

‘What’s going on with the monk disciple?’

‘Going mad?’

‘What have I done to make the monk disciple go mad?’

Chu Kuangren may appear very calm on the surface, but deep down, he brooded over the monk as he had a lot of questions.

Did he not just say six words?

How could it possibly make a monk disciple go mad?

If he knew something like that would happen earlier, he would not have made things up on the fly. If something bad were to happen to this monk disciple, would Thunder Temple seek him out for payback?

Chu Kuangren kept on thinking about various measures to save the monk.

Although he was not afraid of the Thunder Temple, he did contribute to Wu Ye’s current situation. He could not possibly stand idly and watch without helping.

Chu Kuangren looked at Wu Ye and secretly gritted his teeth.

‘I must continue making things up!’

“Life is made by oneself, while appearances are made by the heart, hence everything in the world is simply an appearance. If the heart doesn’t move, all things are immovable. If the heart doesn’t change, nothing changes.”

“A foolish thought is the end of wisdom, while a sensible thought is the birth of wisdom.”

“All appearances are illusory. If one sees that all appearances are not, in fact, their true manifestations, then one shall see the Buddha...”

Chu Kuangren no longer cared if those verses made sense. He simply continued to recite the Buddhist classics that he had read from his previous life.

The Horizon Wing Sect Master was stunned speechless. From what he heard, every word that Chu Kuangren uttered contained an extremely exquisite Buddhist doctrine.

‘What level of enlightenment must one achieve in Buddhism to speak these words!’

‘Our Sect Leader can’t possibly be the living reincarnation of the Buddha, right?’

Beside him, Leng Changkong looked at Wu Ye with pity in his eyes.

‘It’s over, it’s all over.’

‘The six words that our Sect Leader said have already led Master Wu Ye to the brink of madness. Now that he’s spoken even more words...’

'Is Master Wu Ye going to blow up on the spot?'

The more Leng Changkong thought about it, the more he felt that it could happen. He then quietly gestured to the other disciples behind him, signaling them to

step back.

As the exquisite Buddhist verses came out from Chu Kuangren's mouth, Wu Ye's grim face gradually turned serene.

His previously agitated spiritual energy had calmed down as well. Suddenly, a very strong Buddhist Light radiated from his body and burst into the skies.

He had gained a realization!

One by one, the doubts that had troubled him for many years were now solved under Chu Kuangren's guidance, and the realm of his Buddhist cultivation had gone up a notch as well.

Although he had only comprehended a small part of what Chu Kuangren said, it made him admire the latter even more.

"Please accept my respects, teacher."

In the eyes of the public, Wu Ye then knelt before Chu Kuangren and kowtowed towards him.

The sight of that shocked the cultivators around them beyond words.

That was the Thunder Temple's monk disciple and also a Young Emperor among the younger generation, yet he was now prostrating willingly before Chu Kuangren.

It was truly unbelievable.

"Please stand up." Chu Kuangren stood unmoved and accepted Wu Ye's respects, but he felt relieved at the same time too.

'Finally, everything's over.'

Wu Ye stood up and said, "Teacher, please allow me to be your student. Your Buddhist cultivation is so high that it's unbelievable. Just a little bit of guidance from you was enough to answer my doubts, even if I only comprehended a small part of it."

"Your guidance has benefited me for the rest of my life, how can I repay such kindness you've given me? So from today onwards, I shall address you as my teacher."

"Master Wu Ye, you're too polite."

Chu Kuangren chuckled. The fact that Wu Ye wanted Chu Kuangren to be his teacher did not mean that he truly acknowledged Chu Kuangren as a true teacher but it was simply an honorific instead

He would not mind it as long as it did not affect him.

With the release of the Tormented Army and cleaning up the battlefield done, Chu Kuangren was considering whether he should enter the Ancient Battlefield's Core Area again.

After some pondering, he decided to go ahead and take a look. However, because the Ancient Battlefield's Core Area was an extremely dangerous place, he decided to leave Lan Yu behind in Sunsoil City temporarily and went ahead to explore himself.

...

On the Ancient Battlefield.

Within the Inner Zone, Chu Kuangren had just passed by the Ancient Lou Kingdom.

After the Tormented Army had broken through their seal, the enchanted boundary had already dissipated, exposing the great ancient city under the Sun.

Chu Kuangren sighed softly as he looked at the dilapidated wall of the ancient kingdom. The Lou Kingdom was also a powerful sage orthodoxy back in the day as its foundation was even stronger than that of the likes of the Royal Azure Dynasty.

Yet despite how strong it was, the great Lou Kingdom still could not escape the fate of destruction.

This proved that nothing was everlasting in this world. At that thought, Chu Kuangren's desire for strength grew stronger.

He could only ensure the Black Heaven Sect's survival by becoming stronger.

By becoming an Emperor!

No, he wanted to surpass even the great Emperors!

Chu Kuangren's eyes then lit up with determination.

Looking at the ancient city in front of him, he suddenly recalled something. "I guess Shang Han took that Boundary Emperor weapon away, huh? That's interesting. I do wonder when he'll dare to seek me out after obtaining that Boundary Emperor weapon?"

He suddenly looked forward to their encounter upon thinking of that.

He was unbeatable among the younger generation. If a few strong cultivators were to appear before him, he would gladly meet and take them on.

He would treat it as a way of relief so that he would not be too bored all the time.

At that moment.

Sounds of a fight suddenly came from the Lou Kingdom's Palace.

Chu Kuangren's figure turned into a stream of light and in the next instant, he was at the Lou Kingdom's palace.

A group of cultivators was there fighting over something.

"Hand over the Sage's bones! Otherwise, don't you think of leaving here alive," a sturdy-looking man yelled at another young man.

The cultivators around were staring menacingly at the young man as well. The unyielding young man then replied coldly, "You guys want this Sage's bones? In your dreams!"

"Hmph, then death shall come to you."

Everyone then rushed forward and attacked the young man.

The overall cultivation base of that group was not weak, and even the weakest was a Battle Monarch. Meanwhile, the young man's combat strength was at the level of a Late-Stage Honorable.

However, there were at least three people there who had similar combat strength to him, so the young man was outnumbered and he soon fell into a disadvantage.

When Chu Kuangren arrived, that young man was already filled with bruises and injuries.

Chu Kuangren pondered upon overhearing their conversation.

“A Sage’s bones.”

“If I’m not mistaken, that must be the Lou Kingdom Ruler’s remains. I can’t believe that his body was left here.”

The Lou Kingdom’s appearance naturally attracted many adventurers to it.

After Chu Kuangren had cleared out the Lou Kingdom’s treasure and Shang Han took the Boundary Emperor weapon away, the most valuable thing there was naturally the Sage’s bone.

That was what those people were fighting over as of now.

Seeing that the young man was bruised and injured, Chu Kuangren had no intentions to strike. After all, he did not know the young man.

Incidents where cultivators killed each other to steal, loot, and pillage were very common.

After a while, the young man had his arm cut off by another cultivator who took off with that arm and the Yin and Yang ring on it.

The Sage's bones were kept within that Yin and Yang ring!

Everyone immediately rushed to it.

"The Sage's bones are mine."

"F*ck off!"

However, a surge of absorption force then landed on the broken arm. Chu Kuangren simply reached out to grab it and took off that Yin and Yang ring.

His spiritual thoughts could sense that the Lou Kingdom Ruler's remains were indeed stored inside that ring.

The surface of the remains radiated golden light and emanated faint surges of Daoist Rhyme. That skeletal remains were much stronger than the remains of ordinary Sages.

Chu Kuangren concluded that when the Lou Kingdom's Ruler was alive, his cultivation base could be close to a Great Sage.

It was extremely rare to find such a strong cultivator now as not all the sage orthodoxies on the Firmament Star had a Great Sage watching over them.

"This set of skeletal remains is no doubt extremely valuable."

Chu Kuangren's eyes lit up.

Meanwhile, the cultivators' expressions suddenly turned ugly when they saw Chu Kuangren taking that Yin and Yang ring. Some of them did not even say a single word before they armed themselves with weapons and rushed up to him, wanting to kill him and steal his loot.

Chapter 244: Stealing The Sage's Bones, Entering the Core Area, The Infallible Tormented Physique

"Hand over the Sage's bones!"

"*sshole! How dare you snatch it right before our noses."

Dozens of cultivators armed with weapons rushed to attack Chu Kuangren.

However, Chu Kuangren merely stood where he was.

The Descendant Self Sword on his waist trembled slightly before an incomparably razor-sharp surge of Sword-based Daoist Rhyme that was imbued with his spiritual power erupted and transformed into sword qi.

Streaks of sword qi swept outward like a violent wind. Before the cultivators who had rushed forward could get within three feet of Chu Kuangren, the sword qi had torn them all apart.

The rest of the cultivators gasped at that sight.

“What terrifying strength!”

“Who is this? What kind of person is he?”

“Wait a minute, with that gorgeous ancient sword on his waist and his otherworldly aura, can that person be... Chu Kuangren!”

At the mention of Chu Kuangren’s name, everyone present suddenly dared not act rashly anymore. Instead, they all stepped aside.

Meanwhile, the Yin and Yang ring’s previous owner — that young cultivator whose arm was cut off during the fierce battle earlier approached Chu Kuangren. “Brother Chu, I will definitely pay you a visit to deliver my utmost thanks for helping me out.”

He then stretched out his hand.

Chu Kuangren frowned. “What are you trying to do?”

“Um, Brother Chu, aren’t you going to return my Yin and Yang ring?” that young man said in disbelief.

“This Yin and Yang ring is my prize from this battle, why should I return it to you?”

If Chu Kuangren had not obtained that Yin and Yang ring earlier, that young man would undoubtedly be dead by now, yet the same young man still intended to take his Yin and Yang ring back from Chu Kuangren who was quite amused at this.

The Sage's bones should remain in the hands of those who were strong enough.

If that young man was strong enough, then it should not be a problem for him to take it. However, he only had ambition but lacked said strength.

"You..."

The young man's expression shifted as he retorted angrily, "Does the dignified Black Heaven Sect Leader intend to lower himself down to those thieves?"

"What a load of nonsense."

Chu Kuangren shook his head and casually let out a palm attack.

A violent surge of Daoist Rhyme formed into an Ancient Godly Mountain, and with a thud, it blasted the young man into a mist of blood.

Everyone shuddered as they did not expect Chu Kuangren to be that decisive.

"Is anyone else interested in the Sage's bones?"

Chu Kuangren's calm gaze swept across the crowd.

The most powerful of these cultivators were merely Honorables who were like puny ants before the Sage-killing Chu Kuangren. Who among them would dare go against him?

"Since the Sage's bones have found their way into Brother Chu's possession, we won't dare to snatch it away from you. We shall take our leave now."

"Haha, I'm quite fortunate to have witnessed Brother Chu's might today. At least my trip here is worthwhile."

"As rumored, Sect Leader Chu does indeed possess a heavenly poise. I'm convinced that the Sage's bones should belong to you."

"I suddenly remembered that there's something I need to sort out back home. I'll take my leave first."

"Wait, what? Are you going to give birth, dear? Alright, I'll come back as soon as possible."

While some of them complimented Chu Kuangren, some also took out their communication compass and pretended to be talking to someone else. Eventually, they all left the scene.

They would never dare to steal from Chu Kuangren even if they were given the heart of ten lions.

Chu Kuangren then used his spiritual thoughts to scan the whole palace. Once he learned that there was nothing valuable left, he left the ancient city and headed towards the Ancient Battlefield's Core Area.

...

Ancient Battlefield, Core Area.

That was an area where even a Sage would be extremely fearful to be in.

The concentration of ferocious qi here was ten times denser than the Ancient Battlefield's Inner Zone, and high-level tormented souls were everywhere.

Even Chu Kuangren felt slightly uncomfortable stepping foot into that area. Only when he channeled some spiritual energy did he manage to alleviate that feeling.

He activated his Treasure Locating Skill.

With that, Chu Kuangren began to search for some nearby treasures.

/strong>

"Three hundred miles ahead lies a Sage Weapon."

His eyes lit up as his figure turned into a stream of light. Soon, he arrived at the sand dune where the Sage Weapon was buried.

Chu Kuangren lifted his arm and unleashed a surge of spiritual qi.

The sand dune was instantly blown open!

From the explosion emerged a scarlet longsword.

Although the sacred sword looked rusty, it was still laced with a faint streak of sharp sword qi, which was quite daunting to look at.

Chu Kuangren held that sacred sword and channeled his spiritual energy into it.

Suddenly, the rust fell off the surface of the sacred sword, revealing the sword's shiny red body and two small words that were engraved on its blade.

"Bloody Bead!"

"The Blood Bead Sacred Sword!"

With a satisfied smile, Chu Kuangren kept the sacred sword into his Sacred Emerald Sword Case to nurture it before he continued to explore the Core Area.

This area was truly more dangerous than the Inner Zone and the Outer Zone, but there were many Opportunities of Fortune too. Within half a day, Chu Kuangren had obtained two Sage Weapons and around seven or eight supreme weapons.

“This Ancient Battlefield is a natural treasury!”

Chu Kuangren praised.

Suddenly, a strange fluctuation came from within his Yin and Yang ring.

He took out a wooden box hesitantly and opened it to see the source of ferocious qi, which was similar to a cloud of black qi, tumbling about actively.

“What’s going on?” Just when Chu Kuangren started to be perplexed, he suddenly felt an extremely violent killing intent behind him

With a slight change of his expression, his sword unsheathed at his waist.

He unleashed a sword ray behind him.

The moment the sword ray collided with ferocious-qi-formed saber light, they both exploded in the void and sent horrifying shockwaves everywhere.

Even Chu Kuangren could not help but fall back dozens of feet.

“This surge of energy... It’s a Sage!”

He could sense a Sage Daoist Rhyme within the surge of ferocious qi.

Not far away, a tormented soul, who had an unrecognizable face and whole body shrouded in black ferocious qi, was holding a black long saber as it stared at Chu Kuangren.

“Kill, kill, give me the innate ferocious qi...”

As that tormented soul murmured, the ferocious qi on his body became increasingly intense. Then, it dashed towards Chu Kuangren.

With a swing of its long saber, it unleashed a pitch-black saber light which almost covered all the light in the world, and a domineering Daoist Rhyme locked on to Chu Kuangren.

Against a tormented soul that had the combat strength of a Sage, Chu Kuangren did not dare let his guard down. Hence, he struck out his Descendant Self Sword and released a majestic purple sword ray.

The collision of those two forces rumbled the void once again.

“Four Seasons Sword Formation!”

Chu Kuangren retrieved his Sacred Emerald Sword Case. One by one, numerous longswords flew out of the sword case and rapidly formed into the mysterious Four Seasons Sword Formation.

Within the sword formation, the four seasons alternated while the power of every natural phenomenon erupted.

Compared to the previous year, Chu Kuangren's current cultivation base was at the Late-Stage Honorable Realm, which meant that he was just a small step away from being an Honorable.

The sword formation he was using at that moment was so powerful that it killed this Sage-level tormented soul within a short moment.

Along with a sharp howl, the Sage-level tormented soul turned into a light smoke and dissipated. All it left behind was a small cloud of black mist.

"Another source of ferocious qi."

Chu Kuangren frowned as he grabbed the source of ferocious qi in his hands.

This source of ferocious qi was much smaller than the source of ferocious qi that he had obtained from killing the million-unit Tormented Army.

Grateful for being lucky, he then kept this source of ferocious qi into the wooden box, allowing it to merge with the other bundle of ferocious qi.

In an instant and with a whoosh, the source of ferocious qi suddenly flew into Chu Kuangren's body, and a message erupted within his mind.

"Infallible Tormented Physique!"

"It's the Infallible Tormented Physique which is ranked top ten among the three thousand physiques that exist!"

A hint of surprise flashed across Chu Kuangren's face.

'So there's another name for this source of ferocious qi.'

'It's called the innate ferocious qi!'

This innate ferocious qi possessed various kinds of mysterious uses. However, its biggest use was to grant someone the Infallible Tormented Physique!

Moreover, it was the kind of Infallible Tormented Physique that would immediately be fully realized, and once that physique has been fully mastered, even a Sage could be easily killed!

Chapter 245: Finding The Innate Ferocious Qi, Never Before Seen Threat

"Then again, I've only merged with two surges of innate ferocious qi, which means I've only formed an early state of this physique and that's roughly three percent of progress. If I want to achieve the full state of this physique, I'm afraid there's still a long way to go," Chu Kuangren murmured.

However, he was not in a hurry.

From the information contained within the innate ferocious qi, he knew that the Ancient Battlefield's Core Area had nurtured a lot of it over a very long time. As long as he gradually collected them, his Infallible Tormented Physique would be fully achieved.

Besides him, there were also the tormented souls in the Core Area who were extremely eager and desperate to obtain the innate ferocious qi.

Since they were tormented souls, the innate ferocious qi was very beneficial to them, and it could even allow them to develop some spiritual ego too.

Chu Kuangren could not help but think of the White-Robed General.

Could that person possibly be a tormented soul who had developed a spiritual ego?

Chu Kuangren shook his head and no longer thought more about it.

Then, he continued to explore the Ancient Battlefield's Core Area with his Treasure Locating Skill to look for more innate ferocious qi.

His Treasure Locating Skill would not be able to locate innate ferocious qi that had merged with some other beings. However, independent innate ferocious qi still existed within the Ancient Battlefield.

Chu Kuangren spent a total of three days within the Ancient Battlefield's Core Area and had collected several surges of innate ferocious qi, one after another.

However, these innate ferocious qi were not as concentrated as the one he had obtained upon purifying the Tormented Army. Despite that, he still managed to increase the Infallible Tormented Physique's progress to five percent, which in return, increased his combat strength slightly.

"Another surge of innate ferocious qi!"

Using the Treasure Locating Skill, Chu Kuangren found a surge of innate ferocious qi located three thousand miles away from him and so he quickly hurried over to get it.

Yet before he could get close to his destination, he felt a terrifying energy fluctuation. Someone was fighting at the innate ferocious qi's location.

With that, he slowed down his pace, concealed his energy, and cautiously approached.

Since this was the Ancient Battlefield's Core Area, danger existed everywhere. Just by the mere energy fluctuations alone could he sense that they were at the level of a Sage.

Here, he dared not keep a high profile.

Upon getting closer to the center of the energy fluctuations, he noticed that two figures were in battle. Horrifying surges of ferocious qi that were imbued with Sage Daoist Rhyme collided violently and caused a large part of the void to tremble on end.

Chu Kuangren then took a closer look and found that the two figures fighting were an old man in black robes and a giant ape with red eyes and black fur all over its body.

“Hmph, for a mere tormented soul which has lost its spiritual ego, how can you possibly hope to defeat me even if you have the power of a Sage?”

The black-robed old man snorted before he attacked the ape with a punch. A surge of terrifying Daoist Rhyme then erupted from his thin figure and it merged with the ferocious qi to form a giant large palm, smashing the ape into the ground.

In hiding, Chu Kuangren’s heart throbbed upon witnessing this scene.

The old man in black robes was a tormented soul as well.

However, he possessed a spiritual ego!

‘How much innate ferocious qi has he merged with?’

If Chu Kuangren could absorb the innate ferocious qi from his body, that would no doubt increase the progression of his Infallible Tormented Physique even more.

At that thought, he then secretly compared his and his opponent’s strength.

A Sage could be categorized into different stages, which were Sage, Great Sage, Sage Ruler. Despite them being in the same realm, there was a power difference between them.

Hence, the Sages had split every stage into seven steps. For example, first-step Sage, second-step Sage... First-step Great Sage, second-step Great Sage...

The first-step being the most common, while the seventh-step signified the strongest.

From what Chu Kuangren could sense, the combat strength of that black-robed old man was roughly equivalent to a three-step Sage, which was stronger than the Murong clan's Sages.

However, he already killed the Murong clan's Sage one year ago.

What about one year later then?

"I can win!"

Chu Kuangren secretly said to himself.

When the black-robed old man killed the tormented ape soul and obtained the innate ferocious qi, Chu Kuangren immediately attacked.

He immediately retrieved the Sacred Emerald Sword Case and three hundred and sixty-five swords came flying out of it!

"What the f*ck?"

The black-robed old man was shocked as he did not expect to be ambushed.

Facing the incoming majestic sword qi and the impact of the Daoist Rhyme from within the Four Seasons Sword Formation, the black-robed old man quickly channeled his ferocious qi and struck out a punch to intercept it.

The black fist landed on the sword formation and shattered the sword qi. However, the remaining streaks of sword qi scattered in all directions instead to surround the black-robed old man.

“Godd*mn it!”

“The sword formation’s energy is so strong!”

The black-robed old man instantly knew that he could not defeat the sword formation. So while the sword formation was not fully formed yet, a streak of black ferocious qi immediately shot out from his fingertips, slipping through the formation’s gap and into the distance.

He was looking at the sword formation’s user.

Once he saw his opponent’s appearance, he was extremely shocked not only at his opponent’s otherworldly temperament but his identity as well.

“This energy... It’s a living person?”

“I can’t believe a living person came into the Ancient Battlefield’s Core Area. Besides, his cultivation level is only at... Honorable Realm?”

The black-robed old man found it a little hard to believe.

An Honorable Realm cultivator could deploy a sword formation of this degree and venture that deep into the Ancient Battlefield’s Core Area.

“Young lad, I believe this must be your first time in the Ancient Battlefield’s Core Area. Then you must know of the three great beings in this area that you should never provoke. Well, I’m one of them, so it’s best that you...”

“Attack!”

Before the black-robed old man could finish speaking, Chu Kuangren had already activated his Four Seasons Sword Formation and instantly unleashed its most terrifying Sword-based Daoist Rhyme!

He could tell that the black-robed old man was trying to buy time, but what he did not know was when his opponent had called for help.

In that situation, that fight had to end as soon as possible!

With that, the full might of the Four Seasons Sword Formation erupted and its immeasurably terrifying and mysterious sword qi suppressed the black-robed old man after a short while.

“D*mn it.”

“Young lad, if you dare to kill me, I shall...”

A flash of horror flashed across the black-robed old man’s eyes. The power of this sword formation was even more terrifying than he had imagined.

Before he could finish his sentence, a surge of energy formed by the cycle of the four seasons, the rotation of the sun and moon, and all the natural phenomena within the formation turned into a colorful giant sword that struck down upon him!

With a bang, extremely terrifying streaks of sword qi swept out in all directions. The black-robed old man was smashed to pieces by that giant sword!

When the sword qi had dispersed, Chu Kuangren immediately dashed into the sword formation and gathered all the innate ferocious qi that his dead opponent left behind.

That surge of innate ferocious qi was more concentrated than the ones he had collected in the past few days. He reckoned it could increase the progress of his Infallible Tormented Physique to around ten percent.

So he kept that piece of innate ferocious qi and was just about to leave.

However, an extremely terrifying aura instantly locked on to him at that moment. A black finger was approaching him from across the sky.

Surges of ferocious qi tumbled through the clouds and rumbled the world.

Even Chu Kuangren could not help but become interested upon witnessing that attack.

The Descendant Self Sword unsheathed from his waist while the Six Supreme Foundation Levels within his body released a dazzling divine light. He then activated the Golden Jade Body and deployed all the three transformations of the Exquisite Nine Orifices Sword Heart. Paired with the ferocious qi from his Infallible Tormented Physique, he struck out a sword attack!

The purple sword ray was vast and contained a surge of Emperor's Aura.

Eventually, that sword ray collided with the approaching giant finger attack.

The two surges of energy intertwined with each other, forming a terrifying force of impact that spread everywhere. Even Chu Kuangren could not help but fall back hundreds of feet.

His expression was incredibly stern.

The user of that finger attack was no doubt the strongest enemy that he had ever encountered!

He then took out a jade talisman and was prepared to crush it at any time.

It was one of the items that he had obtained from the Fantasy Roulette this year, called the Great Shift Talisman. Since that item contained spatial energy, it could instantly transport him to hundreds of thousands of miles away.

That was also one of the reasons why he was so confident in entering the Core Area. Even if he did encounter something dangerous that he could not defend, he could still escape at any time.

Chapter 246: The Giant Tormented Sage Ruler, The White-Robed General Took Action, The Innate Ferocious Crystal

Chu Kuangren gazed into the distance.

All he saw was a figure around three meters tall walking over to him in the air, with ferocious qi that was many times stronger than the black-robed old man emanating around him!

It was a majestic-looking middle-aged man. His three-meter-tall body made him look like a giant, and paired with the frightening ferocious qi, it made Chu Kuangren feel a tremendous pressure that he had never experienced.

Daoist Runes swirled within his eyes as he activated his Eye of Revelation.

“Giant Tormented Sage Ruler, one of the three Ancient Battlefield rulers, a tormented soul formed by the combination of the Ancient Battlefield’s ferocious qi and the rage qi of a Sage that died... A vast amount of innate ferocious qi contained in the target’s body, around ten times that of ours...”

‘Ten times?’

If Chu Kuangren were to absorb ten times the amount of the innate ferocious qi he possessed, the completion progress of his Infallible Tormented Physique would increase up to fifty percent.

Of course, that was merely wishful thinking as reality was often disappointing. Since his opponent was a Sage Ruler, Chu Kuangren's meager cultivation level was not a match for him at all.

"I can't believe that a Sage Ruler existed within the Ancient Battlefield. Tsk, what a surprise indeed," Chu Kuangren mumbled.

However, the more he thought about it, the more he felt that it made sense. After all, this was the Ancient Battlefield, one of the Ten Great Forbidden Areas in the Firmament Star after all.

If anything could exist, then how ridiculous could that be?

"Young lad, it's quite a remarkable feat for an Honorable like you to possess such strength. I suppose you're a well-known figure in the outside world."

The Giant Tormented Sage Ruler simply said to Chu Kuangren.

After that, a killing intent appeared shot out from his eyes. "But this is the Ancient Battlefield. Based on the fact that you've killed my subordinate and stole his innate ferocious qi, no one in this world can possibly save you from me!"

He lifted his hand right after he spoke. There were ferocious qi and a horrifying surge of Sage Daoist Rhyme swirling around his fingertips.

Chu Kuangren was sure that he might not be able to survive that finger attack.

If he were to take it on at full power, he would have to rely on his Immortal Body for recovery.

Just as he was about to crush the Great Shift Talisman to escape, a black spear suddenly shot over with lightning speed from a distance!

That spear was locked onto the Giant Tormented Sage Ruler!

The Giant Tormented Sage Ruler's expression froze with caution in his eyes. His finger attack that was supposed to target Chu Kuangren fell onto the incoming spear instead.

With a bang, horrifying energy exploded the moment they collided!

It was as if the void was about to be distorted.

The clashing of Sage Ruler level Daoist Rhymes was incredibly horrifying.

Under that impact, the Giant Tormented Sage Ruler's body was pushed by a few steps while the black spear rebounded.

It was caught by a white arm, and as Chu Kuangren gaze traveled from the spear, he then saw a familiar figure.

Dressed in white robes and with a horrifying mask over his face, only a pair of dark, deep, emotionless eyes could be seen.

That was the Mysterious Manifestation of the Ancient Battlefield...The White-Robed General!

Upon seeing that person once again, Chu Kuangren immediately activated his Eye of Revelation to learn about him.

“Bai An, formerly a general of the Tranquil Kingdom, one of the three Ancient Battlefield rulers, also known as the White-Robed General, the figure behind the Mysterious Manifestation that was mentioned by many adventurers...”

“Due to absorbing the innate ferocious qi after he died, this figure is now considered a living dead that’s trapped between the bounds of a tormented soul and a human...”

“The innate ferocious qi contained within his body is ten times compared to what I possess...”

A string of messages appeared before him.

This had more or less answered Chu Kuangren’s doubts.

‘No wonder this person gave me a bow after I purified the million-unit Tormented Army. It turns out that he was a general of the Tranquil Kingdom after all.’

“What’s the meaning of this, White-Robed General?”

With caution in his eyes, the Giant Tormented Sage Ruler questioned the White-Robed General.

Although the White-Robed General was the weakest among the three Ancient Battlefield rulers and also preferred to be alone, no one dared to look down upon his strength.

The other two rulers were extremely terrified too.

This person was the most special being among the three rulers. He was not a real human nor a real tormented soul but somewhere in between, so he still possessed a terrifying amount of combat strength.

“You’re not allowed to kill this person.”

The White-Robed General said.

His voice was very husky, deep, and cold.

“Why?”

The Giant Tormented Sage Ruler was slightly surprised.

The White-Robed General had always wandered around the Ancient Battlefield. Besides occasionally fighting over some innate ferocious qi, he has never intervened in any matter for many years.

As such, the other two Sage Rulers simply turned a blind eye to him, but never would they expect that the White-Robed General would do something because of Chu Kuangren.

"I'm indebted to him," the White-Robed General replied.

The Giant Tormented Sage Ruler was taken aback for a moment. Knowing that the White-Robed General's strength was on par with him, he wondered what Chu Kuangren did that made him indebted to the latter?

"You've purified the soldiers under my command, so I shall forever take this kind act of yours to heart. Here, take this and leave. Once you've exited the Core Area, they won't be able to bother you again," the White-Robed General said as he took out a black crystal.

Even the Giant Tormented Sage Ruler was shocked when he saw that item.

"T-that's the Innate Ferocious Crystal!"

"I can't believe you had an Innate Ferocious Crystal in your possession, White-Robed General! Are you mad? Why are you giving this item to a mere Honorable!"

The Giant Tormented Sage Ruler could not hold back his emotions and roared.

He looked at the Innate Ferocious Crystal with greed in his eyes. The fact that even a Sage Ruler could be so startled by something like this proved that the Innate Ferocious Crystal was incredibly valuable.

Chu Kuangren shot a surprised glance at the White-Robed General and then kept the Innate Ferocious Crystal away. The moment he took over the Innate Ferocious Crystal, Chu Kuangren's expression froze a little as he realized why the Giant Tormented Sage Ruler lost his cool.

This Innate Ferocious Crystal contained an immeasurably concentrated amount of Innate Ferocious Qi!

It was no less than what was contained within the Giant Tormented Sage Ruler.

"One day!"

"Wait for me for a day after you exit the Core Area. If I don't come to you within a day, then you can feel free to leave," the White-Robed General said.

"Alright."

Chu Kuangren nodded.

He then turned into a stream of light and dashed away.

Not long after he left, an extremely terrifying burst of aura erupted behind him. Two forces that were strong enough to rumble most of the Ancient Battlefield collided and the area around there rumbled as if it was about to be shattered.

The speed of Chu Kuangren's Phantom Light Strike was extremely fast, like a speed of light, as he sped out of the Core Area.

...

"I'm finally out."

Ancient Battlefield, Inner Zone.

Chu Kuangren had just exited the Core Area.

He stopped at the edge of the Core Area and looked inward, where many fierce tormented souls were roaring at him from within.

They were all sent by the Giant Tormented Sage Ruler to kill him. There were even a few among them who had the level of a Sage.

If not for his remarkable strength and technique that specialized in speed like the Phantom Light Strike, Chu Kuangren would have been torn to shreds by that group of tormented souls.

Although he would recover, it would still be very painful for him.

"Sure enough, these tormented souls cannot come out of the Core Area," Chu Kuangren muttered as he looked at the tormented souls roaring at him from a distance.

If any one of those tormented souls were to be placed in the Inner Zone, they would be on the same level as the Inner Zone's Ten Tormented. However, they were unfortunately trapped within the Core Area instead.

"There seems to be something restricting..." Interest brewed in Chu Kuangren's mind, and he started to examine why these tormented souls could not get out of the Core Area.

He eventually discovered something.

The ferocious qi on these tormented souls had connected with the earth qi within the Core Area. The stronger the ferocious qi, the closer its connection with the earth qi.

It was precisely due to the connection with the earth qi that they could not get out and were trapped there like earth-bound spirits instead.

"The Inner or Outer Zone don't have characteristics like this, so it must be caused by the Sage War that the Mindful Emperor talked about."

"Since the great formation was set up during that Sage War, that must be what changed the characteristics of the earth qi within the Core Area."

Chu Kuangren thought.

Chapter 247: Hordes Of Tormented Souls, He Sat Down Instead, Fighting The Tormented Souls With Sword Qi Clones

Ancient Battlefield, Inner Zone.

Chu Kuangren was fiddling with a black crystal in his hands.

The crystal had an irregular shape and contained a concentrated amount of innate ferocious qi that was ten times more than the amount present in his body.

“My precious.”

Chu Kuangren grinned.

If he could absorb the Innate Ferocious Crystal, it would propel the progress of his Infallible Tormented Physique to around fifty percent and above.

By then, the amount of strength he could display would be incredibly terrifying. On top of other techniques or means of combat, the average Sage would be no match to him at all.

However, when compared to beings on the level of the Giant Tormented Sage Ruler,

there would still be a large power gap between them.

Even if he had merged with the Innate Ferocious Crystal, the amount of Innate Ferocious Qi he possessed would be similar to his opponent. However, because the Giant Tormented Sage Ruler had been inside the Ancient Battlefield for a very long time and absorbed countless amounts of ferocious qi, it meant that he would have other tricks up his sleeve besides a mere Innate Ferocious Qi.

“Why hasn’t the White-Robed General come out yet?”

Chu Kuangren looked towards the Ancient Battlefield’s Core Area and muttered.

At that moment, a strong fluctuation of ferocious qi came from behind him.

A violent saber light suddenly swept towards him like a falling meteor!

Chu Kuangren immediately retaliated with a backhand and unleashed his Human Mountain Stamp. Its raging human mountain energy brutally smashed the saber light into pieces.

He looked to the distance and saw a tormented soul that was wielding a saber heading towards him at breakneck speed. It was one of the Inner Zone’s Ten Tormented, the Tormented Saber Wielder!

Besides the Tormented Saber Wielder, there was also a tormented soul in the form of a tiger and another small hill-sized giant black insect crawling on the ground.

They were part of the Inner Zone’s Ten Tormented as well — the Tormented Tiger and Tormented Bug...

Besides that, there was a huge amount of high-level tormented souls as well.

Chu Kuangren was stunned for a moment.

“Why are there so many tormented souls all of a sudden?”

Suddenly, he came back to his senses and stared at the Innate Ferocious Crystal in his hands, upon which he said, “Are they attracted to the Innate Ferocious Crystal?”

To the tormented souls, the Innate Ferocious Qi was tantamount to good luck as it could even allow them to develop a spiritual ego too.

Let alone a crystal filled with such concentrated Innate Ferocious Qi.

Perhaps all the tormented souls within the Inner Zone were rushing towards him now.

Chu Kuangren tossed the Innate Ferocious Crystal into the air a few times before he kept it inside his Yin and Yang ring and chuckled. “These bunch of impudent and tiny tormented souls.”

If the Sage-level tormented souls in the Core Area could not do anything to him, then what could these Inner Zone’s tormented souls do?

The abnormal behavior of the Inner Zone’s tormented souls eventually attracted the attention of countless adventurers, especially the ones who had experienced the horrible incident that was the million-unit Tormented Army. After all, everyone was still in a highly alert time period.

Hence when they saw the tormented souls’ abnormal behavior, they could not help but feel horrified.

“What’s going on? Have these tormented souls gone crazy?”

“It can’t be! They’re not going to gather in numbers like the Tormented Army and rush out of the Ancient Battlefield to create mayhem and destruction, right?”

“Not much has happened on the Ancient Battlefield for so many years, yet why are so many abnormalities happening one after another in the past few days?”

“No way, check it out everyone. These tormented souls are all heading towards the Ancient Battlefield’s Core Area. What the hell is going on there?”

“Let’s go take a look...”

Some of the cultivators pondered for a while but because they could not hold back their curiosity, they decided to go and find out the cause of the tormented souls’ abnormal behavior.

In a short moment, everyone was near the Core Area. Those that dared to venture there were quite strong and capable, even the weakest among them was an Honorable.

“Look, there’s someone over there.”

Someone among the crowd yelled.

A white spot then appeared in their field of vision, and that white spot itself was also the target of the countless tormented souls.

That white spot was actually a person.

It was a man who was clad in a wide-sleeved white robe with a gorgeous longsword hanging on his waist, and he possessed an ethereal and otherworldly temperament.

“It’s Chu Kuangren!”

Someone recognized him from within the crowd.

The crowd looked at him, surprised.

“Why is he here?”

“Hold up, he seems to be the target of all these tormented souls. What has he done to incur the wrath of so many tormented souls?”

“Look, that’s the Tormented Saber Wielder, Tormented Bug, Tormented Great Demon, and a few others of the Inner Zone’s Ten Tormented. With all those terrifying beings surrounding him, can Chu Kuangren handle all of them alone?”

The tormented souls came in hordes, and among them were countless high-level tormented souls and also a few of the Inner Zone's Ten Tormented. A vast surge of domineering ferocious qi swept through the whole area. This troop was not any weaker than the previous million-unit Tormented Army.

Compared to all of them, Chu Kuangren looked very tiny.

"Don't you forget, that person is Chu Kuangren!"

A cultivator took a deep breath and said with a serious tone.

The others turned silent when they heard his words. If it were them standing before that horde of tormented souls, they would have no chance of winning even if they had an army of thousands of cultivators with them.

However, Chu Kuangren was different.

He alone was better than a whole army!

Everyone looked at Chu Kuangren, interested to see how he would deal with the situation.

Yet they saw him doing something shocking instead.

Chu Kuangren raised his arm lightly and the sand on the ground before him levitated in the air, forming into a... chair?

Chu Kuangren sat on the chair casually as the hordes of tormented souls approached him.

Many cultivators present were dumbfounded by his move.

After all, seeing the incoming horde of tormented souls was enough to scare them to death.

However, Chu Kuangren simply faced them with a calm look on him.

“Hey, did he just sit down?”

Someone asked in disbelief.

Some were rubbing their eyes as well, suspicious if they were hallucinating or not.

Despite that, something even more shocking happened next.

After Chu Kuangren sat on the sand chair, he then snapped his fingers. Multiple streaks of sword qi came out of his body and turned into clones of him.

Those clones were made of sword qi and looked exactly like Chu Kuangren. All of them had sword qi and Daoist Rhymes circulating around them.

“What, what kind of technique is this?”

“By the heavens, there are so many clones.”

Everyone found it a little hard to believe.

However, everything before them was real.

While Chu Kuangren sat in his sand chair, he activated his Sword Qi Transformation to form two hundred clones of himself that rushed to attack the countless tormented souls before him.

The two hundred sword qi clones then constructed a horrifying sword qi defense line, and none of the tormented souls could break through it for some time.

“Since I’m waiting for someone anyway, I’ll play with all of you for a while.”

Chu Kuangren sat on the sand chair with his legs crossed and said.

Perhaps he felt that the two hundred sword qi clones were not strong enough because he then took out the Sacred Emerald Sword Case and multiple swords flew out of it.

With every sword qi clone wielding a treasured sword, their combat strength suddenly amplified.

In the air, the cultivators who had rushed over were all confused.

It was their first time witnessing a battle like that, with Chu Kuangren's main body sitting comfortably in his chair while he sent out hundreds of sword qi clones to fight on the battlefield!

"So, this is the unparalleled and peerless Chu Kuangren?"

"What a terrifying strength he has!"

"By the heavens, I think one sword qi clone of his can easily kill me, yet he's able to form a few hundred of them!"

"Is he even human?"

Everyone was stunned speechless.

"Roar!"

One of the Inner Zone's Ten Tormented, the Tormented Saber Wielder roared before it rushed past the sword qi clones and towards Chu Kuangren to attack him.

Not only the Tormented Saber Wielder, but a few of the other Inner Zone's Ten Tormented broke through the line of defense as well.

After all, there was still a limit to how strong the clones were as two hundred of them were all formed at once.

The Inner Zone's Ten Tormented were all Honorable Supremes as well.

"Is Chu Kuangren's main body going to attack?"

"I guess so."

Led by the Tormented Saber Wielder, the Inner Zone's Ten Tormented all rushed towards Chu Kuangren.

Still sitting on the chair, Chu Kuangren simply moved his body and everyone thought that he was going to get up to deal with the Inner Zone's Ten Tormented. However, they noticed that he had only moved his butt slightly.

All he did was slowly lift his right hand and gently pressed it towards the direction of the attacking Inner Zone's Ten Tormented.

Within the void, a terrifying surge of spiritual power merged with earth qi and formed into a majestic Godly Mountain which immediately landed on the Tormented Saber Wielder and other Inner Zone's Ten Tormented!

Boom!

With a bang, a huge explosion erupted and rumbled the ground!

Chapter 248: The General And The Princess, You Help Me Find Someone, I'll Help You Kill Someone

Boom!

A terrifying boom erupted from the ground!

The entire ground rumbled as the majestic Godly Mountain fell from the sky, and its violent force sent gusts of sand and dust everywhere.

When the Godly Mountain disappeared, the Tormented Saber Wielder, Tormented Bug, and the other Inner Zone's Ten Tormented had all dispersed into dust. Chu Kuangren's slap had killed them!

Everyone gulped in shock.

If those beings were killed with a mere slap, what else could they say?

"Those are the Inner Zone's Ten Tormented we're talking about here. Even an Honorable Supreme would not dare take them lightly, yet they're all gone with a slap?"

"F*ck, that level of strength is just too terrifying!"

“This guy is a freaking monster!”

“Among the well-known sage orthodoxies’ Sect Leaders, I bet none of them possess such combat strength like Chu Kuangren, right?”

“Godd*mn, he’s undoubtedly someone who can kill a Sage.”

Chu Kuangren yawned as he sat on the sand chair.

Even if it was to pass some time, those tormented souls were just too weak. They could not keep him entertained at all.

Suddenly, he grinned as he felt a familiar ferocious qi fluctuation behind him. “Someone interesting has arrived.”

He then slowly got up.

Then from his body, a surge of compassionate Daoist Rhyme emanated as a vast Buddhist Light surged outward like a vast ocean, sweeping through all directions.

Within the Buddhist Light and across the skies stood a thousand-foot-tall giant golden Buddha.

In an instant, golden lotuses bloomed from the ground as sounds of Brahmic chimes reverberated through the void.

As if they were snow under a scorching sun, the countless tormented souls gradually disintegrated under the effect of the Buddhist Light, disappearing within a blink of an eye.

The cultivators were all astounded by what they saw.

Although some of them had witnessed the Tathagata Rebirth Mantra before, they were still shocked when they saw the boundless and majestic ancient Buddha again.

“How does he make a Buddha statue appear like this?”

“It’s too powerful. This technique is truly terrifying.”

“The cultivators of the Thunder Temple are at the helm of Buddhism in the Azure Dragon Domain. However, I don’t think even the Thunder Temple possesses such a horrifying technique.”

“There’s an Emperor’s Aura as well, so it’s an Emperor Technique!”

“How on earth does this guy even come up with so many powerful cultivation techniques? It’s not heard of before even in the Black Heaven Sect.”

Sage Ruler Techniques were already extremely uncommon in the Firmament Star.

Yet that did not seem to be the case with Chu Kuangren as he pulled out one Emperor Technique after another.

How could the other cultivators survive after witnessing him in action?

“Look, someone is coming out from the Core Area.”

Everyone was still overwhelmed by the Tathagata Rebirth Mantra.

However, they soon recovered from their shock when they heard someone yelling, and they all looked in the direction of the Core Area.

There was a figure in white robes, who held a spear in hand and a mask covering his face, walking towards him.

The Core Area had always been the most dangerous place in the Ancient Battlefield, yet no one has ever seen anyone walk out of it before.

Today was the first time that happened.

Moreover, the person who came out amazed everyone tremendously because the image of that figure was just too familiar to them.

White robes, a long spear, and a mask covering his face...

Was he not the White-Robed General that all the adventurers had been talking about?

“The White-Robed General, it’s the White-Robed General!”

“By the heavens, the Mysterious Manifestation about him is true.”

“I can’t believe the White-Robed General truly exists!”

Everyone exclaimed as they stared at the White-Robed General.

Meanwhile, after wiping out all the tormented souls using the Tathagata Rebirth Mantra, Chu Kuangren retracted his Buddhist Light and turned to look at the White-Robed General.

He chuckled and casually formed a sand-made chair with a wave of his arm.

“Please take a seat, senior.”

After all, not only was he a general of the Tranquil Kingdom tens of thousands of years ago, but he was also a powerful being that stood shoulder to shoulder with Sage Rulers. It would only be appropriate to address such a person as ‘senior’.

The White-Robed General nodded slightly and sat before Chu Kuangren.

Seeing that both of them were sat together, the crowd of cultivators was even more dumbfounded. They could not understand how Chu Kuangren had befriended the White-Robed General.

“Senior, did you save me that time because of the Tormented Army?”

Chu Kuangren immediately asked upon sitting down.

Although he already had the answer, he still asked anyway since there was no easier method to break the ice and start their conversation.

“Yes.”

The White-Robed General nodded. “I was once their general. Tens of thousands of years ago when the Tranquil Kingdom declared war on the Lou Kingdom, our ruler recklessly stole the source of ferocious qi and used a sacrificial technique to turn a million soldiers in his army into tormented souls. I tried to stop him but failed in the end.”

“My senior, if that’s the case, then how did you become the way you are now?”

“I was sentenced to death by my ruler, but my corpse was then brought into this area by the Lou Kingdom’s princess. Using some kind of secret technique, she managed to transfer some of the ferocious qi sources into my body to bring me back to life. However, only my consciousness was restored and my body was rendered immobile back then. Only after thousands of years did I end up like this.”

“The Lou Kingdom’s princess saved you?”

“That’s right. She was my lover as well.”

At that, Chu Kuangren’s eyes lit up. In his head, he suddenly played out a sorrowful love story between a general that fell in love with a princess from the enemy nation.

“After I was awakened, I became connected with the earth qi here because I had absorbed a thousand years’ worth of ferocious qi. Although I’m not imprisoned here like the other tormented souls, I still cannot go too far from the Core Area.”

“I’ve wandered through the Ancient Battlefield all these years to find the million-unit Tormented Army, but my effort was to no avail. It was until the appearance of the Ancient Lou Kingdom a few days ago that I sensed their presence and later saw you purifying them,” the White-Robed General explained.

“So that’s how it all happened. Then what about this?”

Chu Kuangren took out the Innate Ferocious Crystal.

“Because you’ve absorbed some of the ferocious qi source, which is the Innate Ferocious Qi, and formed the Infallible Tormented Physique, this Innate Ferocious Crystal will greatly benefit you. This a token of my appreciation to you for purifying the great army.”

“Then I shall accept this gift.”

Chu Kuangren had no intention to refuse that gift too.

“Besides this, I also need your help with something.”

“Pray tell, my senior.”

“I can sense that a descendant of my bloodline is still alive in this world. I hope you can help me find and take care of them,” the White-Robed General said.

“My senior, if a descendant of your bloodline is still alive, does it mean that the princess is not dead yet?”

“She’s probably dead. Otherwise, she would’ve come looking for me here.”

At the mention of that, the concentrated ferocious qi that filled the White-Robed General’s body let out a hint of sorrow. It was quite a moving sight.

“Even though she has passed away, there’s a possibility that she managed to escape before the Lou Kingdom’s demise and gave birth to our descendant. Otherwise, how could the others break through the Lou Kingdom’s enchanted boundary without the Lou clan’s ancient sword?”

“The Lou clan’s ancient sword?”

“That’s right. The Lou clan’s ancient sword is required to enter the kingdom’s enchanted boundary and only Lou Kingdom’s royalty possesses it. So if none of the royals of the Lou Kingdom survived that battle, then how did the Lou clan’s ancient sword get out there?”

"It seems like Shang Han and the others entered the Lou Kingdom by using the Lou clan's ancient sword. So where did the Lou clan's ancient sword they used come from?"

Chu Kuangren thought to himself.

He did not accept the White-Robed General's request immediately. After all, searching for someone's descendant among the vast sea of people in this world was quite a challenging task with many uncertainties.

"If you agree to help me look for my descendant, I shall hunt down the tormented souls and help you gather the Innate Ferocious Qi!" the White-Robed General said.

"Cough, since you've helped me a lot before, it's only natural for me to help you in return, my senior. You can leave the task of finding your descendant to me."

"That's great."

The White-Robed General took out a jade talisman and handed it to Chu Kuangren. "This talisman is a token of love between me and the princess. If my descendant holds it, this jade pendant will react. Maybe this could help you."

Chu Kuangren took over the jade talisman. "I'll do my best."

"We'll meet again."

The White-Robed General stood up and walked towards the Core Area behind him.

Wherever he went, the tormented souls all moved aside and created a path for him. It was an obvious sign that they were very fearful of the White-Robed General.

Chapter 249: Sixty Percent Progress, Onwards To Thunder Temple, The Sect Leader's Grand Perk

Chu Kuangren left the Ancient Battlefield after keeping the jade talisman safe.

Throughout his journey, he no longer had frequent encounters with other tormented souls. It was evident that most of the tormented souls were drawn to his Innate Ferocious Crystal, and he annihilated them immediately.

However, since the Ancient Battlefield was connected to a stream of unending rage qi and ferocious qi, it would only be a matter of time before the tormented souls return.

...

"Master, you're back."

Back in Sunsoil City, Lan Yu's eyes lit up upon Chu Kuangren's return.

"Yup."

Chu Kuangren nodded.

In the next few days, he began to refine the Innate Ferocious Crystal which contained a concentrated reserve of innate ferocious qi. Once it was refined, it would allow Chu Kuangren's Infallible Tormented Physique to be enhanced even further.

On this day.

Chu Kuangren had finished refining the Innate Ferocious Crystal.

A burst of terrifying ferocious qi erupted from his body and upwards into the sky. It spread so wide that more than half of Sunsoil City could sense its presence.

Every cultivator was shocked when they felt the ferocious qi.

"What a terrifying ferocious qi!"

"This ferocious qi does not have the usual rage qi that's associated with the tormented souls. But if it isn't the tormented souls, then what else can it be?"

"I've never seen such pure ferocious qi in my many years at the Ancient Battlefield. Where exactly did it come from?"

The thick ferocious qi spread vastly across the sky as its violent Daoist Rhymes spread through the void. The citizens felt as if they could hear a loud battle roar echoing from an ancient time. It was filled with a boundless ferocious qi and battle intent!

After a while, the transformation slowly disappeared.

In the inn's room.

Chu Kuangren opened his eyes and let out a contemptuous smile as he felt his body gushing with a boundless source of tormented qi.

"Sixty percent completed!"

"Now that my Infallible Tormented Physique has reached sixty-percent progress, I can probably battle a Sage just by leveraging on this physique alone."

"It deserves to be one of the top ten Daoist Physiques among the Three-Thousand Physiques!"

Chu Kuangren murmured.

Without taking into account his other techniques, Chu Kuangren now possessed three different kinds of Daoist Physiques — the Golden Jade Body, the Exquisite Nine Orifices Sword Heart, and the Infallible Tormented Physique.

It was terrifying enough for a person to possess three unique Daoist Physiques. What more, the latter two ones that Chu Kuangren possessed were Supreme Daoist Physiques!

Besides that, he also possessed an incomplete form of Transcendent Coalescence Daoist Physique.

Although having three and a half Daoist Physiques did not make him undefeatable in the whole world, it was enough to place him beyond the rest of the younger generation cultivators in Firmament Star!

“Well, I’m now the Black Heaven Sect Leader, which is a status far higher than a typical fellow youngster, yet I keep comparing myself with people of the same generation. Hehe, I need to shift my mindset and aim higher.”

Chu Kuangren smiled.

No one of the same generations could rival him.

He must set his sight on cultivators who had at least become a Sage.

“Let’s begin today’s gacha roll.”

“Congratulations, Host. You’ve earned a Starlight Tier technique, Giant Palm of Exorcism!”

“Acquire.”

To Chu Kuangren, a Starlight Tier technique may now be insignificant, but there was no harm in acquiring more techniques.

Chu Kuangren was mildly surprised by the description upon acquiring the technique. Just like the Tathagata Rebirth Mantra, the Giant Palm of Exorcism was also a form of Buddhist Technique.

“Looks like I can’t deny myself as a Buddhist cultivator anymore.”

Chu Kuangren laughed and shook his head.

...

“Lan Yu, pack up, we’re getting ready to leave.”

Chu Kuangren said to Lan Yu.

He had had his fair shares of adventures in the Ancient Battlefield and had reaped many Opportunities of Fortune from it. Perhaps the biggest of them all was the Infallible Tormented Physique.

“Alright.” Lan Yu nodded.

The duo then prepared to leave town.

However, they bumped into Wu Ye at the entrance.

“Teacher,” greeted Wu Ye as he bowed towards Chu Kuangren.

“Greetings, Master Wu Ye. I’m afraid I can’t share my Buddhist Techniques with you today. We’re in the midst of leaving this place,” said Chu Kuangren.

“Leaving? Where do you plan to go, teacher?”

“Just roaming around.”

Wu Ye’s eyes lit up. “Actually, the Abbot did send a message to have me invite you back to Thunder Temple. If you don’t mind, perhaps you can join me, Teacher.”

“Master Hui Xin sent an invitation?”

Hui Xin was the current Abbot of Thunder Temple.

Chu Kuangren gave it some thoughts before he agreed. “Sure.”

After all, he had nothing better to do. Perhaps a visit to Azure Dragon Domain’s largest sacred land of Buddhism did not sound too bad. Chu Kuangren had once heard that the vegetarian meals served in Thunder Temple were quite good.

With that, they left the Ancient Battlefield.

Chu Kuangren, Lan Yu, and Wu Ye set foot towards the Thunder Temple.

Considering that there was a significant distance between the Thunder Temple and the Ancient Battlefield, Chu Kuangren summoned the Illusive Mirage to speed up their journey.

Wu Ye looked at the enormous Illusive Mirage before him and could not help but gulp in awe. Had a Black Heaven Sect Leader always enjoyed such a grand perk?!

It was not even a day before the trio arrived at the Thunder Temple.

A few novice monks were raking dried leaves before the entrance.

The sky became dark all of the sudden.

“It’s getting dark now. Is it going to rain?”

A novice monk looked up and was immediately dumbfounded. “Oh dear, what... What is this thing?”

Above them was the enormous Illusive Mirage that covered the entire sky and blocked all the sunlight, exerting a majestic impression upon its surroundings.

Then, the Illusive Mirage reduced into a single orb and vanished.

Three figures descended from above.

“Brother Wu Ye.”

A novice monk noticed Wu Ye amongst the trio and greeted him.

At that moment.

Inside the Thunder Temple.

Within a worship hall, the current Abbot of Thunder Temple, Master Hui Xin, abruptly opened his eyes and smiled. “A distinguished guest has arrived.”

He stood up and put on his Kasaya before he headed towards the entrance.

Under Wu Ye’s guidance, Chu Kuangren and Lan Yu took in the surrounding scenery as they entered the Thunder Temple.

Situated among the mountains, the ancient temple had a serene and peaceful atmosphere.

“This is the back mountain area of the Thunder Temple where we usually cultivate. The other side is where the Mahavira Hall and Buddha Halls are, where pilgrims come and worship...” Wu Ye gave Chu Kuangren an introduction.

Aside from the pilgrims, Thunder Temple rarely saw any visitors, let alone had them in the less accessible area of the back mountains.

Many monks were curious when they saw Chu Kuangren and Lan Yu.

“Who are those two? They have such beautiful features. Could it be a reincarnation of the Buddhas?”

“Amitabha, the back mountain area of this temple is a serene location, how could they simply allow a lady in?”

“I recognize her, she’s Young Emperor Lan Yu.”

“Young Emperor? Then that’s fine.”

“The person beside her is Chu Kuangren from the Black Heaven Sect.”

“Why is he here?”

The monks engaged in quiet gossip.

At that moment, an elder monk in a golden Kasaya came and bowed slightly towards Chu Kuangren.
“Forgive me for not receiving you at the main entrance, Black Heaven Sect Leader.”

“There’s no need for too much formality, Master. Wu Ye mentioned that it was you who invited me here, I wonder if there’s anything I can do for you?” Chu Kuangren smiled as he said.

“We can talk about it later. It’s probably been a long journey for you. I’ve instructed someone to prepare some vegetarian meals and we can talk about this after the meal.”

“Sounds good. I’ve heard that the vegetarian meals in this temple are extraordinary, I must taste it for my own,” Chu Kuangren said with a smile.

The vegetarian meals of Thunder Temple were indeed extraordinary. It included spirit grains that were rich in spiritual energies and they utilized many spiritual herbs. Although it seemed like a normal vegetarian meal, it was incredibly nutritious and delicious.

Chu Kuangren and Lan Yu ate several servings.

“Brother Chu, I’ve heard that you’re well-versed in the ways of Buddhism. I’ve invited you here today in hopes of sparring with you.”

Hui Xin said after everyone had finished their meals.

Chapter 250: I Am The Buddha, What A Master Indeed, Enlightened In A Single Sentence

“Cough...” Chu Kuangren nearly spat out his half-swallowed rice when Hui Xin made the suggestion.

What now?

Another one who wanted to talk to him about Buddhism?

The last time this happened with Wu Ye, he nearly went mad even though the incident ended up being favorable for him and Wu Ye actually improved in his Buddhist cultivation.

However, who knew if Chu Kuangren could still be that lucky this time?

Although Chu Kuangren possessed the Lucky Halo, he still hesitated to react rashly.

No matter how lucky he was, he could not bear the consequence of driving a person to insanity.

“Master, you’re one of the most renowned eminent monks there is, few could rival you in Buddhism. How am I capable of sparring with you?”

“Brother, you’re too humble. Wu Ye has told me everything. Till today, I’ve yet to fully realize the intricacies of the wise teaching you shared with him. I’m afraid it’s me who cannot rival against your knowledge of Buddhism.” Hui Xin laughed bitterly.

Hui Xin was genuinely ashamed.

As the Abbot and a great eminent monk of his generation, Hui Xin's Buddhist cultivation had lost to a youngster despite years of studying the Buddhist teachings.

Hui Xin felt embarrassed in the face of such a reminder.

However, this encounter represented an opportunity for him as well.

Just like Wu Ye, Hui Xin had been stuck within the same Buddhist realm for years now. He simply needed a mentor to guide him on the right path.

Such a mentor could only be someone whose Buddhist cultivation was above him. Unfortunately, even the Sages of Thunder Temple could barely surpass his cultivation realm, let alone other members of the temple.

Chu Kuangren's appearance gave Hui Xin a glimmer of hope. When Wu Ye recited the lines of Buddhist teachings that Chu Kuangren had imparted to Hui Xin, he felt that the Buddhism bottleneck that existed for years had finally shaken!

That was precisely why Hui Xin had invited Chu Kuangren to the temple. He had hoped that through their sparring process, Hui Xin could finally break through the bottleneck.

"I hope you don't mind sharing your ways with me."

Hui Xin looked at Chu Kuangren with the utmost sincerity.

On the other hand, Chu Kuangren could feel a headache.

If Chu Kuangren was really well-versed in the ways of the Buddha, he would not mind sparring with Hui Xin, but unfortunately, Chu Kuangren was not familiar at all.

Chu Kuangren's only exposure to Buddhist teachings was from hearing scattered well-known verses here and there in his past lives. Who knew how much use it could be?

He could probably get away with reciting some ancient Buddhist poems before people who were less well-versed with Buddhist teachings. However, to enlighten a Supreme Honorable eminent monk was another story.

"If you could grant my request, the entire scripture library and all its ancient archives shall be open for your reference."

Just when Chu Kuangren was planning to decline Hui Xin's request, Hui Xin abruptly made another offer.

The surrounding monks' jaws immediately dropped.

The scripture library of Thunder Temple was home to many valuable Buddhist teachings records and technique archives that dated back to ancient times.

No one would expect that in order to spar with Chu Kuangren, Hui Xin was willing to make such a huge sacrifice.

At that, Chu Kuangren immediately canceled his intention to decline as his eyes lit up and he considered the offer.

Scripture library?

Although Chu Kuangren was not interested in Buddhist scriptures, he did feel that the Buddhist techniques would be of great use to him.

After all, he possessed the incomplete form of the Transcendent Coalescence Daoist Physique. If this physique was brought to completion, it would be the ultimate Supreme Daoist Physique, superior even to the Exquisite Nine Orifices Sword Heart and Infallible Tormented Physique!

The completed Daoist Physique would bring myriads of benefit to him.

Meanwhile, in order to achieve that goal, Chu Kuangren needed to amass a large number of techniques to further enhance his insight in the way of Dao.

Chu Kuangren had learned many techniques by now. Just from the Dharma Sect alone, Chu Kuangren had already mastered more than eight thousand techniques.

However, Chu Kuangren still needed to journey further should he wish to complete the Transcendent Coalescence Daoist Physique. To be able to freely indulge in the sea of Buddhist techniques the scripture library could offer was a rare opportunity.

“I’m willing to discuss teachings with you, Master. But I’m not sure if I would be of much help to you,” said Chu Kuangren truthfully.

“No problem. Whether this sharing session is successful or not, the scripture library will still be open for you,” said Master Hui Xin cheerfully.

“Very well, then let’s begin.”

“Please follow me, Brother Chu.”

Hui Xin led Chu Kuangren into a grand hall.

Within the hall was a row of majestic Buddha statues.

There were two zafus in front of those statues.

Chu Kuangren and Hui Xin each took their seats before they began to exchange knowledge. The news of them both sparring soon spread throughout Thunder Temple.

Many monks came to observe when they heard their Abbot was about to exchange knowledge with Chu Kuangren. Even the Sage Monks were surprised.

In a small worship hall deep inside the Thunder Temple.

Several old monks were sitting in the meditation posture. One of them suddenly opened his eyes and said excitedly, "Interesting, Hui Xin is now exchanging the ways of the Buddha with Chu Kuangren. I wonder how high Chu Kuangren's Buddhist attainment is."

"Heh, let's go take a look."

"He's definitely full of surprises. The golden Buddha statue in the Ancient Battlefield was enough to prove that Chu Kuangren's Buddhist cultivation is remarkable."

They then sent their spiritual thoughts out of the small worship hall.

At this moment.

In the grand hall.

Chu Kuangren and Hui Xin were sitting on the zafus.

"After you, Brother."

"Hmm."

Chu Kuangren looked ahead and asked, "What does the Buddha mean to you?"

“To free all living beings from torment and to do good is to live the ways of the Buddha.”

“Hmm, this is a reasonable answer.”

Chu Kuangren replied softly.

“If I may ask, Brother, what does the Buddha mean to you?”

Hui Xin looked at Chu Kuangren and asked solemnly.

“I’m the Buddha!”

Those words alone were like thunder that exploded in the monks’ ears, and the faces of the Thunder Temple’s Sages changed drastically.

“Ridiculous!”

“He’s the Buddha? Does he even have respect for the Buddha?”

“Here I was thinking that this bastard would have any insightful knowledge to our teachings. Who would’ve thought he would end up uttering such shameless remarks?”

The monks and Sages of the Thunder Temple were horrified by Chu Kuangren referring to himself as the Buddha. Their reaction soon turned into one of anger.

To them, Chu Kuangren's remark was a huge insult to the Buddha!

/strong>

Such a remark was sure to provoke anger among others!

"Brother Chu, what do you mean by this?!"

Hui Xin said sternly.

It was evident that he was pissed off at Chu Kuangren's remarks.

"I'm the Buddha!"

"Or rather... Every living being is the Buddha! The Buddha resides within us. It's not something we search for outwardly. To acknowledge the Buddha within is the path to true Buddhism..."

Once Chu Kuangren explained, the crowd immediately went into deep contemplation. Even the Thunder Temple's Sages could even feel a resounding clarity echoing within their minds.

Hui Xin's body jerked, and the Buddhist Light on his body began to surge as he ascended into a state of enlightenment.

What was the way of the Buddha?

The Buddha was not a physical presence.

The Buddha was a way of life.

Every living being had the traits of the Buddha residing within them. To acknowledge and understand such traits was to become the Buddha. Therefore, every living being was the Buddha. The way of the Buddha existed in everything!

Hui Xin's Buddhist Light glowed even brighter.

It was only after a while that he gradually opened his eyes, stood up, and gave Chu Kuangren a bow. "Thank you for showing me the way, Brother."

"You're over complimenting me, Master. Do you wish to continue?"

"Your high Buddhist cultivation is admirable. I've gained more than I could ever ask for from one line of wisdom. There's no need to continue further."

Hui Xin said softly.

Chu Kuangren was confused.

Was that it? Was it that simple?

“And about the scripture library...?”

“Rest assured. From today onwards, all the scriptures in the library shall be made available to you, Brother. You’re free to read it at your own will.”

“Alright.”

Chu Kuangren nodded satisfyingly.

Chu Kuangren did not expect the exchange to go that smoothly. Hui Xin had gained all the insights he needed to become enlightened from a single sentence; what a Master indeed.